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Armenia, since the *Roman de Thèbes* (ca. 1150) already has (3871-2):

Li tierz, qui meine la reïne,  
Fu fiz Hergart, le rei d'Ermine;

and this son of the king of Armenia is one of three who are of the best of Thebes.<sup>4</sup> We must not forget, too, that Chaucer's "Lyeyz" (*K. T.* 58) was in Lesser Armenia (cf. my paper, *The Historical Background of Chaucer's Knight*, p. 229); see also Skeat (*Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, I, 77).

(2) The "Fryse" of *Romance of the Rose* 1093 is interpreted by Skeat as "Friesland." But did Friesland ever abound in gold? It is probably Phrygia that is meant. See *Roman de Thèbes* 6630:

Nel donast por tot l'or de Frise.

Phrygia suggests Midas, the Pactolus (Lydia was anciently included in Phrygia), and embroidery in gold.

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"Look what"

*Lōc(a) hwæt* is used by Ælfric and Wulfstan in the sense of "whatever." I find the same use in *The Second Book of Records of the Town of Southampton, Long Island*, p. 31, in the minutes of a court held on Sept. 1, 1663: "At this said Cort Samuel King being held in examination about his deficiency in non payment of his due to ye ministry at Southold, it is determined by the Cort that *look what* is due from him, . . . his accompt shall bee demanded, and if hee . . . refuse to pay it shall then bee levyed by the cunstable."

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CHAUCER'S "LONG CASTEL"

Professor Frederick Tupper in his note on *Chaucer and Richmond* (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, xxxi, 250 f.) has partly explained the passage which he cites from the *Book of the Duchess*. He points out that it is John, Earl of Richmond, to whom Chaucer alludes in "Johan . . . riche hil." One difficulty with the rest of the interpretation is that Professor Tupper introduces Richmond twice: first, as a "long castel," and secondly, as a "riche hil." Furthermore, it

<sup>4</sup> Cf. the king of Persia (II, 4764), the king of Nubia (v, 6654), the duke of Syria (6603), etc. Boccaccio, it may be noted in passing, mentions Armenia in two of the stories of the *Decameron* (II, 7; v, 7).

would be surprising to find the wife of John of Gaunt referred to as Blanche of Richmond, when her proper title was Blanche of Lancaster.

Now, if Chaucer never punned, argument would be rendered futile at the outset. But he does occasionally indulge in false wit, as Professor Tupper shows. In "A long castel with walles whyte," he refers to Blanche of Lancaster. The equation of "whyte" with Blanche is admitted. "Long castel" for "Lancaster" is not so great a stretch as it might at first seem to be. This is substantiated as late as 1607 by a passage in Camden's *Britannia* (ed. 1695, col. 795): "The *Lone* [Lune], after it has gone some miles further, sees *Lancaster* on the south side of it, the chief town of this county, which the inhabitants call *Loncaster*, and the Scots, *Loncastell*, from the river *Lon*. Both its name at this day, and the river under it, in a manner prove it to be the *Longovicum*, where under the Lieutenant of Britain (as the *Novitia* informs us) a company of the *Longo-vicarians*, who took that name from the place, kept garrison." Camden's footnote to *Loncaster* adds, "This is its name in all the North part of England." Moreover, the pronunciation of *Lancashire* Camden gives as *Lonka-shire* (*Britannia*, col. 787). The pun is thus rendered obvious enough, for the pronunciation which Camden cites is undoubtedly a relic of former days. Finally, Chaucer in employing references to both John and Blanche compasses a neat balance of constructions, and this on the face of it commends the interpretation.

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## BRIEF MENTION

The *Place-Names of England and Wales*. By the Rev. James R. Johnston, M. A., B. D., author of 'The Place Names of Scotland' (New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1916). An enumeration of "the modern books found most useful by the writer" (p. 529) shows that the present century has already made a liberal contribution to the extensive bibliography of this subject, which was formerly especially exposed to unscientific and untrustworthy treatment. Mr. Johnston's *Place-Names in Scotland* (2nd ed., 1903) gave him a place in the company of the scholars now reclaiming this department of investigation from its unfortunate estate, and the book now given to the public makes that place worthily conspicuous. His devotion to this study is best inferred from his own frankly personal statement. He describes himself as being "a busy minister working absolutely single-handed in a Scottish provincial town, with the oversight of a large congregation which has had the first claim upon all his time and energy and has always received it. Why then," he continues, "attempt such a task at all? Because it seemed so needful to be done. No proper con-